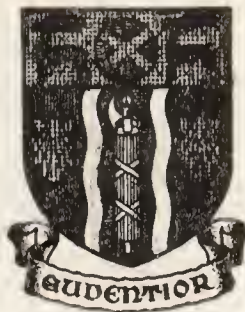


# THE HEALTH OF WATFORD 1969







BOROUGH OF WATFORD

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# Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1969

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A . SHAW

M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

K . H . M A R S D E N

F.A.P.H.I.

Chief Public Health Inspector



BOROUGH OF WATFORD

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WATER SUPPLY COMMITTEE

(From January to May 1969)

Chairman: Alderman J. S. Oliver  
Vice-Chairman: Councillor W. T. H. Price

Members:

Alderman A.L. Merrifield J.P. (Mayor)	Councillor D.A.L. Eccleshall, L.S.I.A.
Councillor Miss D.M. Scawen (Deputy Mayor)	Councillor W.J.C. Ford, T.D., C.Eng., A.M.I. Mun.E., A.M. Inst.H.E.
Alderman A.G. Dillingham, J.P.	Councillor Mrs. J.H.G. Green
Alderman F. Mackenzie	Councillor R.S. Horner
Councillor R.G. Armstrong, LL.B.	Councillor R.W. Jackson
Councillor C. Braybrooke	Councillor R.A. Page, E.R.D.
Councillor S.L. Deakin	Councillor K.R. Norman Smith
Councillor Mrs. H.M. Dodd	

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WATER SUPPLY COMMITTEE

(From May to October 1969)

Chairman: Councillor W. T. H. Price  
Vice-Chairman: Councillor G. R. Berry

Members:

Alderman J.S. Oliver, A.C.I.I., J.P. (Mayor)	Councillor R.S. Horner
Alderman A.L. Merrifield, J.P. (Deputy Mayor)	Councillor R.W. Jackson
Alderman A.G. Dillingham, J.P.	Councillor R.A. Page, E.R.D.
Councillor J.E. Abbott	Councillor R.D. Reith, C.Eng., M.I.C.E., M.I. Struct.E.
Councillor S.L. Deakin	Councillor Miss D.M. Scawen, J.P.
Alderman Mrs. H.M. Dodd	Councillor K.R. Norman Smith
Councillor D.A.L. Eccleshall, L.S.I.A.	Councillor B.G. York
Councillor Mrs. J.H.G. Green	

PUBLIC HEALTH, WATER AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

(From 10th November 1969 to May 1970)

Chairman: Councillor W. T. H. Price  
Vice-Chairman: Councillor G. R. Berry

Members:

Alderman J.S. Oliver, A.C.I.I., J.P. (Mayor)	Councillor W.G. Everett
Alderman A.L. Merrifield, J.P. (Deputy Mayor)	Councillor Mrs. J.H.G. Green
Alderman A.G. Dillingham, J.P.	Councillor R.S. Horner
Alderman Mrs. H.M. Dodd	Councillor R.W. Jackson
Alderman F. Mackenzie, B.E.M.	Councillor R.D. Reith, C.Eng., M.I.C.E., M.I. Struct.E.
Councillor J.E. Abbott	Councillor Miss D.M. Scawen, J.P.
Councillor A.R. Boot, B.Sc., Ph.D.	Councillor K.R. Norman Smith
Councillor S.L. Deakin	





## S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health:

A. Shaw, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Public Health Department, Town Hall, Watford

Phone: Watford 26400

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

F. Barasi, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

K.H. Marsden, F.A.P.H.I. 1, 3, 4, 5

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

G.F. Willcox, M.A.P.H.I. 1, 3, 4, 5

District Public Health Inspectors:

J.L. Willoughby	1, 3, 4, 5	Joseph Brown, M.A.P.H.I.	1, 3, 5
T.B. Rosamond	1, 3, 4	Michael J. O'Brien, M.A.P.H.I.	1, 3
D.C. Cahill, M.A.P.H.I.	1, 3, 5	Paul Bailey, M.A.P.H.I.	1, 3
(Resigned 3.1.69)		(Appointed 3.3.69)	

Senior Meat Inspector:

J.L. Mackenzie 1, 3, 6

Authorised Meat Inspectors:

John O'Brien Brian Christie

Student Public Health Inspectors:

Simon Bissell	-	Resigned 8.8.69
Pamela Jones	-	Appointed 1.10.69
Peter Montandon		

Chief Clerk:

Mary Sherlock

Senior Clerk:

Marion Johnson

Clerks:

Doreen Roberts		
Olive Topping	-	Appointed 17.2.69
Betty Maxfield		

1. Certificate, Royal Society of Health and Public Health Inspectors Joint Board.
2. Diploma, Public Health Inspectors Examination Board.
3. Meat and Other Foods Certificate, Royal Society of Health.
4. Certificate of Sanitary Science, Royal Society of Health.
5. Diploma in Smoke Inspection, Royal Society of Health.
6. Higher Certificate of the Institute of Meat.



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BOROUGH OF WATFORD

Public Health Department,  
Town Hall,  
WATFORD.

September 1970

TO THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Sickness Rates

The vital statistics of the Borough are considered in the body of the report and differ little from the national figures. However, the vital statistics are incomplete in that they give no information on non-fatal sickness other than infectious disease. Information on sickness rates, in the absence of an apparatus to gather this intelligence, must come from a variety of sources including doctors' certificates to the Department of Health & Social Security, hospital admission rates and, importantly, conversations with colleagues in general and hospital practice. The absence of reliable statistical information on sickness is something which the community physician, as proposed in the second Green Paper, should be able to remedy.

Mental Illness

The impression gained during the year is that sickness with a high emotional content continues to occupy a great deal of the time of the health services. At one end of the scale family doctors spend much of their working lives dealing with the mental and emotional illnesses of their patients, such patients often presenting with physical symptoms masking emotional disorder. The number of prescriptions issued for barbiturates, tranquillisers and psychotropic drugs continues to rise. Depression and depressive mental illness is now more readily recognised and effectively treated at home, but at the other end of the scale the pressure on beds in psychiatric hospitals is no less.

Drug Abuse

If the number of prescriptions for barbiturates is any indication a very large number of people in the community are habituated to this drug and find it difficult to sleep without assistance. This should give rise to more consternation than the current public concern about possible drug abuse among young people. Certainly a minute proportion of young people experiment with soft drugs, but there is no evidence that this town has a problem at the moment although it is reassuring that the law is to be strengthened so that possession of drugs not now covered by the law can be controlled.

Green Paper

The second Green Paper on the future structure of the National Health Service met an unfavourable reception from all sections of the medical profession. Change there must be, but the changes proposed in the Green Paper do no more than peck at the problem. Taken in combination with the Redcliffe-Maud recommendations the joint effect is to remove even further the element of local participation in local affairs and it is to be hoped that second thoughts will prevent what could be appalling mistakes.

The year has not been uneventful and I am grateful to members of the Council, fellow chief officers and colleagues for much help, courtesy and consideration during the year.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

A. SHAW

Medical Officer of Health



## VITAL STATISTICS

### Births

There were 1,378 births to Watford mothers in 1969, 50 fewer than in 1968. 111 (8%) were illegitimate, which is the same as the national figure and a fall from last year's high figure. It is not known how many Watford mothers had a legal termination of pregnancy under the Abortion Act. It is the general opinion that the Act will not affect substantially the number of illegitimate births even though 40,000 legal abortions were performed in England and Wales during 1969, which was the first full year's working of the Act.

### Perinatal Mortality.

The same factors operate to cause stillbirths and death in the first week of life. The sum of 18 stillbirths and 13 early neonatal deaths results in a perinatal mortality rate of 22.0 per 1,000 total births (live and still) which is the same as the national figure. This is not unsatisfactory compared with some other nations, but we still have a long way to go to equal the record of Scandinavian countries.

### Neonatal Mortality

There were 15 deaths during the first month of life giving a neonatal mortality rate of 11 per 1,000 live births. As there were 20 deaths during the first year of life it will be seen that three-quarters of all infant mortality occurs during the first month of life and 65% of all infant mortality occurs during the first week of life. Prematurity and congenital anomalies figure largely in causes of infant deaths given in Table IV and it is probable that the same combination of factors operates to bring about both categories of deaths. It is likely that the coming years will see a great reduction in deaths from these causes, particularly from congenital anomalies. Great emphasis is now being placed in avoiding any sort of drug treatment during the early months of pregnancy. Thalidomide, as is known, caused appalling abnormalities; cigarette smoking in the expectant mother it is known not only results in smaller babies, but raises the perinatal mortality rate. Suspicion is now cast even on the humble aspirin during the first three months of pregnancy.

Analysis of seasonal incidence of congenital malformations in the United States of America showed that at least some malformations occurred more often in births in the early part of the year suggesting that one or more malformation-inducing factors may be acting detrimentally on mid-year (summer) conceptions. It is possible then that such things as fertilisers and pesticides may be playing a sinister part in deforming and destroying unborn babies, and this matter merits high priority in this European Conservation Year and indeed in every other year.

### Death Rate

The corrected death rate for 1969 was 11.0 per 1,000 population. 887 Watford residents died and the principal causes of death were again cancer, heart disease and cerebrovascular disease.

### Cancer

A more refined classification of cancer deaths is possible this year and this is shown in Table V. There were 191 cancer deaths and no less than 95 of these were cancers of the gastrointestinal tract (mouth, gullet, stomach and intestines). There were 36 deaths from cancer of the lung, 16 of these before



the age of 65. 27 women died from cancer of the breast and there were four deaths from cancer of the uterus.

## Cancer Health Education

It is increasingly realised that early detection of cancer results in a high degree of successful treatment. Much health education is directed towards enabling people to realise that departures from normality should be investigated quickly if treatment is to be effective. It is encouraging, therefore, that so many people visited the Health Education Council's mobile health exhibition on cancer when it visited Watford.

## Cervical Cytology

The number of deaths from cancer of the uterus was comparatively small, less than 2% of cancer deaths. However, cancer of the cervix can be detected very readily at a pre-cancerous stage by means of cervical cytology and it is a great disadvantage that local facilities for cervical cytology are limited by the lack of laboratory technicians to read the cervical smears. Only twenty women a fortnight can be seen at the local authority's clinic because the local pathology facilities cannot handle any more specimens because of shortage of technicians. The waiting list for cervical cytology at the local authority clinic now stands at 160, i.e. a four months wait. The women who come forward for the test are drawn largely from the (Registrar-General's) higher socio-economic groups and it is the higher groups which have the least risk of cervical cancer. If sufficient technician time was available it would be possible to start a health education campaign to encourage those women who need the service most (i.e., the lower socio-economic groups) to come forward.

It must be stated that the local authority clinic is not the only place where cervical smears are done because family doctors and family planning clinics also take a number of specimens. Nevertheless, facilities are inadequate.

## Diseases of the circulatory system

There were 200 deaths from ischaemic heart disease (coronary insufficiency) and 115 deaths from cerebrovascular disease or strokes.

## Deaths between 1 and 45 years

5.5% of all deaths were between the ages of 1 and 45 years and the causes are shown below :-

Tuberculoses, including late effects	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1
Cancer	11
Benign neoplasms	3
Diseases of the nervous system	3
Hypertensive disease	1
Ischaemic heart disease	3
Other heart disease	2
Cerebrovascular disease	1
Pneumonia	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	1
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	1
Nephritis and nephroses	2
Congenital anomalies	4

Motor vehicle accidents	5
All other accidents	3
Suicide	2
All other external causes	5

Deaths between  
45 and 65 years

22% of all deaths were between the ages of 45 and 65 years. Cancer caused 68 deaths, ischaemic heart disease 48, and bronchitis 15. About 70% of all deaths occurred after the age of 65.



## INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Table VII shows the number and age distribution of cases of infectious disease, excluding tuberculosis, notified in Watford in 1969.

### Measles

There was a dramatic fall in the number of cases of measles notified in 1969, which should have been a 'measles year'. The last 'measles years' were in 1967 and 1965 when 1068 and 1191 cases were notified. In 1969 the figure was 229, about a fifth of what could have been expected. It appears then that measles vaccination has reduced the incidence of measles by about 80%. This is a very great step forward, a great saving of childhood misery, meaning less complications following the disease and less absence from school.

There is a danger, however, that those children who are not vaccinated will miss the disease in early childhood, because of the lack of opportunity for it to spread in a vaccinated population, and catch it in adolescence or adult life when it is more dangerous and unpleasant. Efforts are now being made to vaccinate the whole of the junior and secondary school population who have not had either the disease or the protection.

### Dysentery

Dysentery came to Watford last year and 63 cases were notified, mainly in schoolchildren. Three infant or infant/junior schools were affected and some disruptions of the school routine was inevitable. It was important to prevent children coming back to school before they were recovered. Some parents regarded a mild diarrhoea as of minor importance and did not consult their family doctors. The outcome was that at one school daily visits had to be made to exclude children in concert with the head teacher and all parents received a letter informing them of the illness and the action to take. All family doctors were also contacted and co-operated loyally in the exclusion and treatment processes.

The outbreak offered an opportunity for health education and children and teachers on hygiene. It is regretted that all schools do not now have adequate, accessible handwashing facilities for pupils and the Borough Council made strong representations to the County Council to remedy this situation.

### Influenza

There was a sharp outbreak of influenza in late December and large numbers of people were stricken. The illness was characterised by a temperature of up to 102° F, aching muscles and bones, upper respiratory symptoms and cough. Some patients suffered from severe vomiting attacks. Full recovery did not, in some cases, take place until a month or so had passed. There were four deaths, three of them in elderly people.

Sufficient vaccine for key personnel was available and this may have helped to keep the Council's services running efficiently.

### Food poisoning

Food poisoning cases are investigated by the public health inspectorate except where unusual features are present. Last year the number of cases



notified was 37 but in 15 of these no food poisoning organisms were isolated and the diagnosis is doubtful and the cause in some of them may have been enteroviruses. Ten different varieties of salmonellae were isolated, indicating that there was no common cause of the cases. It is an indication, however, that during 1969 food poisoning organisms were being imported into the country on a large scale and were reaching food in sufficient numbers to cause trouble if food hygiene was the least bit faulty. Previous reports have referred to the importation of animal feeding stuffs with a high bacterial population and it is likely that this was the cause yet again.

**Whooping Cough**                Whooping cough notifications dropped sharply to 5, from 67 in 1968. All of the cases were under the age of five. It would appear that the new vaccine introduced some three years ago is making its effects felt.

**Typhoid**                        One case of typhoid, in a youth, was notified. The illness was contracted abroad on a camping trip and the symptoms were very severe. The disease was not typical and some doubt exists about the diagnosis, which may have been a septicaemia caused by a salmonella organism.

The case is an interesting example of the dangers of foreign travel and underlines three cardinal rules about eating and drinking in foreign countries, namely - drink boiled water, do not eat raw green vegetables and see that meat is well-cooked.

**Infective Hepatitis**                17 cases of infective hepatitis (infectious jaundice) were notified during the year. There was no apparent connection between the cases and no evidence of syringe transmission.

**Leptospirosis**                One case of leptospirosis (Weil's disease) came to light during the year in a young boy who kept pet rats. The situation was complicated by the fact that another of his hobbies was fishing in the Gade. It is possible that the infecting organism, which gains entry to the body usually through minor abrasions may have come from one or other of these sources.

**Malaria**                        One case of malaria was notified during the year, in a man who had recently returned from Nigeria.

**Tuberculosis**                There were 29 cases of tuberculosis of the lungs, 2 of the meninges and 6 of other sites including bones, joints and glands. The falling incidence of tuberculosis, particularly of that diagnosed by patient-selected mass x-ray in Watford and in the country as a whole resulted in the decision to dispense with the mobile mass x-ray units, which have now proved uneconomic.

Thanks are due to Dr. P. Watney Roe, the chest physician, for his help and advice during the year, and to Dr. B.R. Eaton, Director of the Public Health Laboratory, for his help and co-operation in the investigation of infectious disease.

TABLE I

VITAL STATISTICS, NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

		<u>1969</u>	
Area in acres	...	5,275	
Estimated mid-year population	...	76,700	
Number of inhabited dwellings	...	25,252	
Rateable value	...	£6,457,166	
Sum represented by penny rate	...	£26,450	
			<u>Average</u> <u>1959/68</u>
Number of births	...	1,378	1,387
Crude birth rate (per 1,000 population)	...	18.0	18.3
Area comparability factor	...	0.98	-
Standardised birth rate	...	17.6	18.1
Number of illegitimate births	...	111	95
Percentage of illegitimate births	...	8.0	6.7
Number of deaths	...	887	860
Crude death rate (per 1,000 population)	...	11.6	11.4
Area comparability factor	...	0.95	-
Standardised death rate	...	11.0	11.0
Natural increase of population	...	491	484
(excess of births over deaths in year)			
Number of deaths of infants under 1 year	...	20	24
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	...	15.0	17.1
Number of deaths of infants under 1 month	...	15	18
Neonatal mortality rate (deaths of infants under 1 month per 1,000 live births)	...	11.0	12.6
Number of deaths of infants under 1 week	...	13	16
Early neonatal mortality rate (deaths of infants under 1 week per 1,000 live births)	...	9.0	11.3
Number of stillbirths	...	18	22
Stillbirth rate (rate per 1,000 births, live and still)	...	13.0	15.7
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and early neonatal deaths per 1,000 births, live and still)	...	22.0	26.8
Number of maternal deaths (including abortions)	...	-	0.6
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births	...	0.0	0.44



TABLE II

TABLE SHOWING VARIOUS STATISTICAL DATA FOR WATFORD 1959 - 1968

Year	Population	Number of Births	Crude Birth Rate	Area comparability factor	Standardised Birth Rate	Number of Deaths	Crude Death Rate	Area comparability factor	Standardised Death Rate	Natural increased Population
1959	73,780	1,157	15.7	1.0	15.7	870	11.8	0.97	11.4	287
1960	74,340	1,232	16.6	1.0	16.6	781	10.5	0.98	10.3	451
1961	75,000	1,329	17.7	1.0	17.7	865	11.5	0.98	11.3	464
1962	75,540	1,353	17.9	1.0	17.9	859	11.4	1.0	11.4	494
1963	75,780	1,399	18.5	0.98	18.1	909	12.0	0.98	11.8	490
1964	76,340	1,474	19.3	0.98	18.9	845	11.1	0.98	10.9	629
1965	76,470	1,518	19.9	0.98	19.5	833	10.9	0.95	10.4	685
1966	76,350	1,499	19.6	0.98	19.2	882	11.6	0.96	11.1	617
1967	76,310	1,485	19.5	0.98	19.1	869	11.4	0.93	10.6	616
1968	76,790	1,429	18.6	0.98	18.2	883	11.5	0.95	10.9	484
Average		1,387	18.3		18.1	860	11.4		11.0	

Year	Deaths under 1 year	Infant mortality Rate	Number of deaths of infants under 1 month	Neonatal mortality	Number of deaths of infants under 1 week	Early neonatal mortality	Number of still-births	Still-birth Rate	Perinatal mortality	Number of maternal deaths	Maternal mortality Rate
1959	9	7.8	6	5.2	6	5.2	25	21.1	26.2	-	0.00
1960	19	15.2	10	8.1	9	6.5	22	17.5	23.8	-	0.00
1961	19	14.3	15	11.3	14	10.5	22	16.3	26.6	4	2.96
1962	24	17.6	18	13.3	15	11.1	24	17.4	28.3	-	0.00
1963	24	17.2	16	11.4	15	10.7	23	16.2	26.7	1	0.70
1964	29	19.7	23	15.6	20	13.6	20	13.4	26.8	-	0.00
1965	30	19.8	24	15.8	21	13.8	24	15.6	29.2	-	0.00
1966	28	18.7	18	12.0	15	10.0	18	11.9	21.8	1	0.70
1967	35	23.6	30	20.2	28	18.9	26	17.2	35.7	-	0.00
1968	25	17.0	19	13.3	18	12.6	15	10.0	23.0	-	0.00
Average	24	17.1	18	12.6	16	11.3	22	15.7	26.8	0.6	0.44



TABLE III

COMPARISON OF VITAL STATISTICS OF WATFORD, HERTFORD COUNTY  
AND ENGLAND AND WALES

	Watford	Hertford County	England and Wales
Live birth rate	18.0	15.8	16.3
Area comparability factor	0.98	0.94	-
Standardised birth rate	17.6	14.9	-
Stillbirth rate	13.0	10.9	13.0
Infant mortality rate	15.0	14.1	18.0
Legitimate	14.0	14.1	17.0
Illegitimate	18.0	22.0	25.0
Neonatal mortality rate	11.0	10.0	12.0
Early neonatal mortality rate	9.0	9.0	10.0
Perinatal mortality rate	22.0	20.0	23.0
Maternal mortality rate	0.0	0.07	0.19
Death rate	11.6	9.1	11.9
Area comparability factor	0.95	1.14	-
Standardised death rate	11.0	10.4	-

TABLE IV

MAIN CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS 1969

Cause of death	Number under 4 weeks of age	Number between 1 year and 12 months of age	TOTAL
Pneumonia	2	2	4
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	0	1	1
Congenital anomalies	5	2	7
Birth injury, difficult labour etc.	1	0	1
Other causes (namely prematurity)	7	0	7
TOTAL	15	5	20

TABLE V  
DEATHS 1969

Cause of death	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 1 year	Age in years								
					1 - 4	5 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	65 - 74	75 & over
Tuberculosis of	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-
respiratory system	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Other tuberculosis	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
incl. late effects	F	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Other infective and	M	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
parasitic diseases	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm,	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
buccal cavity etc.	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm,	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
oesophagus	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Malignant neoplasm,	M	9	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	3	1	3
stomach	F	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	5	5
Malignant neoplasm,	M	16	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	6	6	6
intestine	F	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	10	10
Malignant neoplasm,	M	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	11	14	3	3
lung, bronchus	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	1	1
Malignant neoplasm,	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
breast	F	27	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	7	5	7	7
Malignant neoplasm,													
uterus	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm,													
prostate	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2
Leukaemia	M	6	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	1	1	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1
Other malignant	M	26	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	3	7	11	2
neoplasms	F	25	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	10	5	6
Benign and unspec-	M	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
ified neoplasms	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Diabetes mellitus	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
Avitaminoses, etc.	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Other endocrine etc.	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
diseases	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Anaemias	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Mental disorders	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
Meningitis	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Other diseases of	M	6	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	1	2	-
nervous system etc.	F	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	3	3
Chronic rehumatic	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
heart disease	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1



Table V Cont'd.

Cause of death	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks		Age in years								
			4 weeks	& under 1 year	1- 4	5 - 14	15- 24	25- 34	35- 44	45- 54	55- 64	65- 74	75 & over
Hypertensive disease	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4
	F	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	9
Ischaemic heart disease	M	116	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	8	32	37	37
	F	84	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	5	24	51
Other forms of heart disease	M	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	10	7
	F	19	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	2	13
Cerebrovascular disease	M	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	8	16	20
	F	70	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	6	12	49
Other diseases of circulatory system	M	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	7
	F	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	11
Influenza	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Pneumonia	M	36	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	3	1	8	22
	F	30	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	21
Bronchitis and emphysema	M	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	11	10	14
	F	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	2	6
Other diseases of respiratory system	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	4
Peptic Ulcer	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	4
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	M	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Cirrhosis of liver	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Other diseases of digestive system	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4
Nephritis and nephrosis	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-
	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Other diseases, genito- urinary system	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
	F	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5
Diseases of musculo- skeletal system	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital anomalies	M	6	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	7	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	M	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other causes of perinatal mortality	M	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Symptoms and ill- defined conditions	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Motor vehicle accidents	M	5	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	1	-
	F	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	-

Table V Cont'd

Cause of death	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 1 year	Age in years								
					1- 4	5 - 14	15 - 24	25- 34	35- 44	45- 54	55- 64	65- 74	75 & over
All other accidents	M	11	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	1	1	6
	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5
Suicide and self- inflicted injuries	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-
	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	2	-
All other external causes	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
Total all causes	M	449	6	2	2	6	4	5	14	24	95	146	145
	F	438	9	3	3	1	4	3	8	28	46	97	236



TABLE VI

HEALTH SERVICES AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1968

PUBLIC HEALTH (INFECTIOUS DISEASES) REGULATIONS

NOTIFICATION OF FOOD POISONING AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The infectious diseases now to be notified to the Medical Officer of Health are :-

Acute encephalitis	Ophthalmia neonatorum
Acute meningitis	Paratyphoid Fever
Acute poliomyelitis	Plague
Anthrax	Relapsing fever
Cholera	Scarlet fever
Diphtheria	Smallpox
Dysentery (amoebic or bacillary)	Tetanus
Infective jaundice	Tuberculosis
Leprosy	Typhoid fever
Leptospirosis	Typhus
Malaria	Whooping cough
Measles	Yellow fever

To this list the local authority should add any disease made notifiable in its area under an order made under Section 147 of the Public Health Act 1936 or Section 52 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968.

TABLE VII

NUMBER OF CASES AND AGE DISTRIBUTION OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS  
DISEASES (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED IN WATFORD 1969

Age Group	Measles	Whooping Cough	Scarlet Fever	Food poisoning	Dysentery	Infective Hepatitis	Typhoid	Acute Meningitis	Leptospirosis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Malaria	Erysipelas
Under 1 year	14	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
1-	30	2	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2-	30	2	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	38	-	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	39	1	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-9	72	-	13	5	35	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
10-14	1	-	-	2	5	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
15-24	3	-	-	3	1	5	1	1	-	-	-	-
25 & over	2	-	4	16	15	9	-	-	-	-	1	1
TOTAL	229	5	21	37	63	17	1	1	1	1	1	1



TABLE VIII

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION  
OF CHILDREN  
(PERCENTAGE IMMUNISED)

	Children born in 1968			Children under 2
	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Poliomyelitis	Smallpox
England and Wales	66	67	65	31
Hertfordshire	82	84	85	50

TABLE IX

TUBERCULOSIS

Age group	RESPIRATORY		MENINGES & CNS		OTHERS	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	1	-	-	-
2 - 4	1	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 9	-	1	-	-	-	-
10 - 14	1	-	-	-	1	-
15 - 19	3	1	1	-	-	1
20 - 24	2	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34	1	2	-	-	1	2
35 - 44	1	-	-	-	1	-
45 - 54	4	2	-	-	-	-
55 - 64	5	-	-	-	-	-
65 - 74	2	1	-	-	-	-
75 and over	1	1	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	21	8	2	-	3	3



TABLE X

RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURE 1969

MONTH	RAINFALL		DAY TEMPERATURE °C (°F)	
	Inches	% of Average	Highest	Lowest
January	2.77	124%	13 (55)	3 (38)
February	1.33	77%	11 (51)	-1 (31)
March	2.03	154%	12 (54)	2 (36)
April	0.83	44%	21 (69)	7 (44)
May	1.69	80%	24 (76)	9 (49)
June	0.96	49%	26 (78)	13 (55)
July	1.91	76%	31 (88)	16 (60)
August	2.39	102%	28 (82)	17 (62)
September	0.18	7%	21 (70)	13 (56)
October	0.20	8%	22 (71)	12 (54)
November	3.21	113%	17 (63)	0 (32)
December	2.35	98%	10 (50)	-1 (31)
TOTAL	19.85	74%		

These measurements were taken at Watford Fields and supplied  
by the Water Engineer.

## REPORT ON THE WATER SUPPLY

Mr. J. R. Collins, C.Eng., F.I.C.E., M.I.W.E., M.R.S.H., the Borough Water Engineer and Manager, has kindly supplied the following information :-

1. The supply was satisfactory both in quality and quantity throughout the year.
2. 1,589 million gallons were supplied during the year averaging 4.353 million gallons per day and the supply on the maximum day (23rd July 1969) was 5.591 million gallons.
3. The population supplied was approximately 76,000 and the average consumption for domestic, trade and industrial purposes was 53.77 gallons per head per day. 262 new supplies were connected during the year.
4. All water going into supply was softened to approximately 200 parts per million.
5. Fluoridation was continued at both pumping stations, in collaboration with the Department of Health and Social Security. The fluoride content of the supply was regularly tested and found to be at the correct level of 1 part per million.
6. Sterilisation by super-chlorination and de-chlorination on all water supplied was carried out on the supplies from both pumping stations. Chlorine residuals were monitored to ensure that the sterilisation processes were operating correctly.
7. 164 bacteriological analyses were made of the water drawn from various parts of the supply system, and of the raw and untreated water from both pumping stations and these indicated that the supply was at all times of a satisfactory bacteriological quality.
8. Chemical analysis also indicated satisfactory chemical quality of the untreated and treated water. There was no plumbo-solvency.
9. A survey of water supplies to temporary dwellings within the water supply area revealed the following situation :-

227 Horseshoe Lane	One caravan occupied by one family with one stand pipe and one Elsan toilet.
289 Sheepcot Lane	One caravan occupied by one family for part of the year with one stand pipe and one toilet connected to the sewer but without flushing apparatus.
275 Sheepcot Lane	Six caravans occupied by six families with two stand pipes and two flush toilets.
106 High Road, Leavesden	Two caravans occupied by one family with one stand pipe and two flush toilets.
"Rosebarn", Lady Capel's Wharf, Hempstead Road.	One caravan occupied by one family with piped water supply and one flush toilet.
"Rosevilla", North Orbital Road	Four caravans - two vacant and two occupied by two families with one stand pipe and two Elsan toilets.
82 High Road, Leavesden	One caravan empty with one stand pipe (water turned off) and with one Elsan toilet.
10. There was one permanent dwelling within the water supply area without a main water supply piped into the premises. This was "Rosevilla", North Orbital Road, where a standpipe and flush W.C. were available.



## REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

### Introduction.

The work of the Public Health Inspector is concerned with conditions in our environment that are inimical to public health. He is charged with a wide range of responsibilities under many statutes but, of course, he is not the only officer who works in this field locally or nationally. Indeed, the increasing pollution of the environment by new and rapidly expanding industrial processes is no longer confined to national boundaries. European Conservation Year has spotlighted the need for international co-operation and stronger statutory controls.

It is regrettable that the very real progress we were making in the reduction of atmospheric smoke pollution received a setback when a shortage of solid smokeless fuels arrested the smoke control area programme.

A substantial number of houses in Watford were modernised by determined use of the improvement area powers in the Housing Act 1964. These were radically amended when the Housing Act 1969 came into force on 25th August. The new legislation makes provision for the improvement not only of the houses but also of the environment in General Improvement Areas. The successful implementation of any new improvement area scheme is dependant upon the willing co-operation of all the householders.

After detailed consideration of the "Maud and Mallaby reports" the Council made a number of decisions aimed at improving efficiency and speeding-up procedures. One of these was the delegation to the Chief Public Health Inspector of power to act in the granting of licences and registrations and the Service of Notices. The new system has worked well and is effective.

There are no dramatic events to record in the report that follows. It sets out in factual terms a summary of the activities of the team of Public Health Inspectors to improve living and working conditions in Watford and to safeguard our food. One must look back several years to assess realistically the higher standards that we now enjoy and towards which the Health Inspectors have made a significant contribution.

## HOUSING

Unfit dwellings            The following three houses were represented to the Council as being unfit for human habitation and incapable of repair at a reasonable expense:-

Canal Cottage, Cassiobury Park  
290 High Street  
3 The Crescent

The Council decided to demolish 35 houses in Woodside Close and to rehouse as soon as possible the families occupying nine of these which were severely damp.

Disrepair                The number of privately rented houses in the Borough becomes less each year. In addition to tenant purchase it is the general practice for a house to be sold for owner-occupation whenever the landlord obtains vacant possession. With few exceptions the standard of maintenance of houses in Watford is good and only occasionally is it now necessary for the Council to use its statutory powers to enforce repairs.

Improvement  
of houses                A determined and sustained effort has been made by the Council to use effectively the complicated provisions of the Housing Act 1964 to enforce the improvement of rented houses. At the same time every encouragement has been given to owner/occupiers to take advantage of the Improvement Grants Scheme. Since 1965 four improvement areas have been declared containing 938 houses; 262 of the 333 rented houses and 242 of the 605 owner-occupied were in need of improvement. Initially, little progress was made but towards the end of 1969 satisfactory results had been achieved; 119 rented houses had been fully improved (45%) and works were in hand on another 20 (8%). The improvement works on 59 of the 139 houses were undertaken by the Council at the request of the owners or in default of their compliance with improvement notices. These figures must be related to the high proportion of tenants (43%), all of whom were elderly, who were unwilling to have their houses improved.

During the same period no less than 107 (i.e. 44%) of the unimproved owner-occupied houses in the areas have been fully improved.

The tenants of 8 houses outside improvement areas made representations to the Council under Section 19 of the Housing Act 1964 to enforce the owners to improve their houses. It is this provision that will most likely be used in the future to enforce improvements of houses in general improvement areas. It is regrettable that the Government did not take advantage of the Housing Act 1969 to simplify the procedures.

Applications for improvement grants are dealt with by the Borough Engineer. 37 applications from landlords and 140 from owner-occupiers were approved.



A statistical summary of the action taken by the Council to enforce the improvement of houses is shown in Table IV in the Appendix.

Early in the year the Council decided to defer establishing any more improvement areas in Watford until the new Housing Bill was enacted.

The Housing Act 1969 came into force on 25th August with the main purpose of making the improvement grant scheme more attractive to owners; restrictions were removed; maximum grants were increased; the scheme was extended to include the cost of essential repairs and provision was made for the fixing of a fair rent for a house which has been improved.

Radical changes have been made in improvement area procedures. In the new general improvement areas even greater emphasis is placed on persuasion and voluntary action; although local authorities are given compulsory purchase powers their other, less drastic powers, have been reduced.

The great importance of improving the environment in future improvement areas is stressed by the Government who have made available to local authorities a specific grant for this purpose.

In Watford an investigation into the possibility of establishing a general improvement area was commenced but by the end of the year no decisions had been made.

#### Overcrowding

Most of the overcrowding in Watford is associated with the sub-letting of rooms and in the great majority of these immigrants are involved.

At the beginning of the year there were 85 houses where directions and notices were operative controlling the numbers of persons who could live or sleep in the houses.

During 1969 the Council made 7 directions under Section 19 of the Housing Act 1961 and served 2 notices under Section 90 of the Housing Act 1957. Three notices and directions were revoked leaving 91 houses under supervision at the end of the year.

There was one prosecution for failure to comply with a direction and another for failure to comply with a notice. The magistrates imposed a fine of £20 with 15 gns. costs in the first case of £5 with 3 gns. costs in the second.

It is necessary to make day and night inspections to maintain adequate control.

The Housing Act 1969 strengthened the powers of local authorities for dealing with unsatisfactory conditions in houses in multi-occupation.

#### Caravans

The number of residential caravans in Watford has been reduced to 7 on 5 licensed sites. There was only one incident of itinerant caravans moving on to land in the Borough without consent.

## FOOD

### Food Hygiene

Apart from daily inspections at the slaughterhouse, eight hundred and seventy-six inspections were made of food premises of all kinds and of stalls and vehicles to check compliance with the relevant hygiene regulations.

The proprietor of a restaurant was convicted of four offences under the Food Hygiene Regulations (see Table IX). Authority was given for legal proceedings for nine offences under the Regulations in a restaurant from which a prawn contaminated with mouse excreta had been sold; there was a conviction on each summons (Table IX).

### Food Inspection

#### (a) Meat

Meat inspection was carried on satisfactorily through the year.

There was a contravention of the Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations by the use of tobacco by an employee who had received several warnings. The Council authorised legal proceedings. (Table IX).

The Council continued to charge for meat inspection at the maximum rate, but the service is nevertheless carried out at some cost to the ratepayers.

The slaughterhouse manager has continued to permit students of meat inspection to gain practical experience in the abattoir. Such facilities are very limited and local authorities over a wide area are indebted to him for the opportunity for their staff to receive the required training.

#### Slaughter of Animals Act

Twenty licences to slaughter all classes of animals except horses were issued; two of them enabled the holders to slaughter animals only under the supervision of an experienced slaughterman.

#### (b) Milk

Two complaints of foreign matter in milk and one of milk sold in a dirty bottle were reported to the Council. There was one successful prosecution (Table IX); one warning letter sent and fourteen other complaints were referred to the Public Health Departments of the districts in which the milk was bottled or dealt with informally.

#### (c) Unsound Food

Ninety-four complaints were received of food (other than milk) sold in an unsatisfactory condition. Forty-three complaints referred to foreign bodies, twelve of which were in bakery products. Staleness, mould growth or decomposition accounted for thirty-eight reports. All complaints are



thoroughly investigated and, wherever possible, means are sought to prevent a recurrence of the unsatisfactory circumstance which led to the complaint.

The Public Health Committee authorised legal proceedings (Table IX) in nineteen of the cases reported to them and instructed warning letters to be sent in seventeen cases. Of the prosecutions authorised, four did not proceed for a variety of reasons and one was dismissed, the magistrates not being completely satisfied regarding the recollection of the prosecution witness as to the date of purchase of some sausages.

The dismissal of a summons in respect of a boxed cake, which was found to be mouldy after remaining in the shop for ten days, was upheld on appeal and established an important principle in the interpretation of Section 115(1)(c) of the Food and Drugs Act 1955. The defendant relied on a warranty from his supplier but the Corporation alleged that the cake was not "in the same state as when he purchased it" because at the time of delivery the evidence showed that it was in good condition. The Lord Chief Justice ruled that in all previous cases turning on this point the food was to be regarded as being in the "same state" if there had been no adulteration or subtraction, i.e. there had been no tampering with the article. The defendant could rely on subsection (1)(b) because he was able to prove that the manufacturers had given a "shelf life" of up to 14 days and had not notified him of a subsequent reduction to seven days. (2 W.L.R. 1970 p.220; All E.R. March 1970 p.554).

#### Food Poisoning

37 cases of food poisoning were notified, 28 of them being Salmonella infections, 5 of which were contracted overseas - 2 in West Africa, 1 in Persia, 1 in Spain and 1 in Germany. Two persons became ill with Salmonellosis after attending a wedding reception in London.

Careful investigations failed to reveal any common sources of infection or the food or drink that was infected.

A tabular statement of the notified cases is set out in Table X in the Appendix.

The staff of the Public Health Laboratory, Watford, have again been most helpful in the investigations.

#### Composition of Food and Drugs

Samples were submitted to the Public Analyst, Mr. J.D.Curzon, as follows :-

Formal samples: 6

Informal samples: 161

#### (i) Routine Samples

##### (a) Foods

Meat Products

Cereals, Cheeses, Dried Fruits

Sweetening Agents, Spices and Sauces

Confectionery and Soft Drinks



(b) Drugs

Twenty-two assorted samples.

Incorrect labelling of an Italian tinned fish product was referred to the County Weights and Measures Inspector because the label appeared also to contravene the Weights and Measures Act.

All the other routine food and drugs samples were satisfactory.

(ii) Special Samples

Of nineteen samples submitted because of complaints from consumers or other special circumstances the following nine were found to be unsatisfactory.

Soil was found in potato chips served as part of a meal.

Black lubricant was found on the inner surface of a salad cream jar.

Algae and fungae were present in a milk bottle.

Excessive pectin formed a jelly in concentrated lemon drink.

Charred starch was found in a scone.

Chicken with a soapy taste had been cooked in rancid fat.

Yeasts had grown in a bottle of raspberryade.

The above results were communicated to the persons responsible.

Animal tissues in milk and rodent droppings in a prawn in batter gave rise to legal proceedings (Table IX).

## A T M O S P H E R I C     P O L L U T I O N

### Clean Air Act 1968

The various provisions of this Act become effective when commencement orders are made by the Minister of Housing and Local Government. The first of these orders made 1st April 1969, the appointed day for the coming into operation of ten of the fifteen sections of the Act. These give the Council stronger powers of control over the emission of grit and dust from chimneys, the height of new chimneys and the sale of unauthorised fuels in smoke control areas.

The remaining sections of the Act were brought into operation on 1st October 1969 and give additional powers for the control of dark smoke emissions and the arrestment of grit and dust.

### Industrial Pollution

Most of the boiler plants and furnaces in Watford are modern oil-burning installations. Only seven excessive smoke emissions were recorded during the year.

Whenever there is a proposal to instal a new furnace the developer is advised to take advantage of the prior approval provisions of the principal Act. Three such approvals were granted during the year.

Height of Chimneys: Since 1st April 1969 the Council have had greater powers of control over the height of new chimneys serving larger furnaces as defined in the Act. Application must be made to the Council for approval of chimney height before the furnace is used. The Council delegated power to act to the Chief Public Health Inspector. Three applications were approved subject to specified conditions.

### Smoke Control Areas

Early in the year the Council decided to proceed with the confirmation of the Harwoods Smoke Control Order (No.6) which was made in August 1966. When the Order was confirmed it specified 1st October 1969 as the date of operation which gave insufficient time in which to complete conversions of firegrates. The Council therefore postponed this date to 30th September 1970. The area covered by this order is 60.8 acres and contains 1,088 dwellings and 43 other premises.

The number of dwellings covered by the eight confirmed smoke control orders in Watford is 8,094 with a total acreage of 2,003.

In the latter part of the year it became apparent that the closure of plants making gas from coal was causing a serious shortage of coke and that the establishment of any new smoke control areas in Watford should not be considered until an adequate supply of solid smokeless fuels could be assured.

During 1969 85% of the householders in smoke control areas in Watford who have claimed grants for firegrate conversions have installed gas or electric heating appliances.

For seven years the Council co-operated with the Ministry of Technology in the National Survey of Atmospheric Pollution by maintaining five volumetric gauges in the Borough for recording smoke and sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere. During this period the smoke in the air in Watford and, to a lesser extent, the sulphur dioxide, was so significantly reduced that in July the Council decided, with the approval of the Ministry, to close the five recording stations in Watford.

It must, however, be recognised that there is increasing pollution by exhaust fumes from road vehicles.



## PLACES OF WORK

### Factories

There is co-operation with the Borough Engineer on plans of new factories or alterations to existing premises which are submitted to the Council for approval. This procedure ensures that the premises will comply with the various legislative requirements before structural work commences.

The items which concern the Health Department are the layout and equipment of works canteens; the prevention of atmospheric pollution; prior approval of boiler plants and the heights of chimneys; the avoidance of nuisance and the storage of petroleum. The only provision in the Factories Acts which it is the duty of local authorities to enforce in factories in which mechanical power is used is the one dealing with sanitary conveniences. In consequence few visits are made to factories for this specific purpose.

Outworkers: The nature of the work undertaken by workers in their homes is set out in Table XIII(ii).

### Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963

#### 1. Registration and Inspection

The number of premises in Watford newly registered during the year and on the register at 31st December 1969 with the numbers of persons employed therein are as follows :-

	<u>Number of premises newly registered during the year</u>	<u>Registered Premises</u>	<u>No. of persons employed</u>
Offices	46	434	8,382
Retail Shops	21	648	5,131
Wholesale shops and warehouses	10	53	686
Catering Establishments and Canteens	8	73	952
Fuel Storage Depots	<u>Nil</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>
	<u>85</u>	<u>1,209</u>	<u>15,157</u>

(7,161 males and 7,996 females)

In considering the above figures it must be borne in mind that many persons are employed in the above classes of business which are not registered by the Local Authority, namely :

- (1) Businesses in which only the employer's relatives work;
- (2) Businesses in which employees work less than 21 hours per week; and
- (3) Businesses which are registered by the Factory Inspector, e.g.

Offices in factories, Local Authority and Government buildings, certain railway premises, etc.

All registered premises in Watford have received at least one inspection and most of them have been inspected at least twice. There has been a general willingness to comply with the informal notifications of any infringements of the Act. In one case, however, where the toilets in a shop were found to be dirty on three occasions, the Council decided to prosecute the occupier.

During the year 270 general inspections of registered premises were made by the Public Health Inspectors and 274 other visits and inspections.

## 2. Accidents

33 accidents were reported. In all probability there were many other accidents that were not reported.

(See Table XII for Analysis of causes of accidents)

### Shops Act 1950

The Public Health Inspectors are also appointed as Shops Act Inspectors. It is the general practice to check that there is compliance with the conditions of employment provisions of the Act when shops are inspected under other legislation.

With the exception of trading on Sundays there are few infringements of the closing hour provisions of the Act. One car dealer was prosecuted for a Sunday trading offence; he was fined £20 with 6 gns. costs.



Petroleum storage

The Chief Public Health Inspector is appointed by the Council as authorised officer for the purposes of the Petroleum (Regulation) Acts 1928 to 1936.

160 premises were licensed for the storage of petroleum spirit and petroleum mixtures. There are four self-service post payment filling stations in the town. One filling station was converted to self-service pre-payment and this is unattended during the night - adequate safeguards are provided.

292 inspections were made of installations.

Nuisances

The abatement of public health nuisances was one of the first responsibilities of the public health inspector a century ago; it continues to be an important part of his environmental health work.

Some eighteen hundred inspections were made concerning many matters; obstructed and defective drains and sewers; accumulations of refuse; insect pests; feral pigeons; domestic pets and housing defects. One of the most difficult problems is the improvement of the living conditions of old people who are living in squalor and who will not accept help from the social services.

On only one occasion was it necessary to apply to the Magistrates for a Nuisance Order.

Noise: Most of the noise complaints are about machinery, ventilation fans etc. in industrial and commercial premises. The much greater noise caused by road traffic and aircraft produced few complaints - probably because the public recognise that there is little the Council can do about it. When a new subway was being constructed at Watford Junction station it was necessary to use a pile driver throughout the night on four weekends. The noise seriously disturbed many people over a wide area; less noisy equipment could not be used because of the nature of the ground and screening was impracticable. One abatement notice was served in respect of an all-night taxi service that was causing noise.

Prevention of  
damage by Pests  
Act 1949

The Council continue to provide a free service for the destruction of rats and mice on domestic premises. Rodents on commercial and industrial premises and wasps nests on occupied premises are dealt with on payment of a fee which for wasps nests is 12/- .

A commercial undertaking laid Sodium Fluoroacetamide poison baits in those sewers which have been found in the past to be rat-infested.

Table XIV sets out details of rat and mice infestations treated during the year. 125 wasps nests were destroyed.



APPENDIX

RECORDS OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS 1969

TABLE I

Complaints	...	...	...	825
<u>DWELLINGS</u>				
Public Health Act (disrepair)	...	...	...	388
Housing Act (disrepair)	...	...	...	530
Housing Act (improvement)	...	...	...	291
Housing Act (overcrowding)	...	...	...	267
Movable dwellings	...	...	...	36
<u>PLACES OF WORK</u>				
Power Factories	...	...	...	162
Non-power factories	...	...	...	3
Building Sites etc.	...	...	...	10
Outworkers	...	...	...	8
<u>Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963</u>				
(a) Offices	...	...	...	60
(b) Retail Shops	...	...	...	165
(c) Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	...	...	...	11
(d) Catering establishments and Canteens	...	...	...	40
(e) Fuel Storage Depots	...	...	...	1
Revisits	...	...	...	274
<u>Shops Act</u>	...	...	...	124
<u>FOOD</u>				
Food inspection	...	...	...	208
Slaughterhouse	...	...	...	398
Food factories	...	...	...	41
Ice-cream premises	...	...	...	66
Restaurants, canteens, public houses	...	...	...	342
Retail food shops	...	...	...	259
Public Market	...	...	...	37
Mobile shops, stalls	...	...	...	85
Other food premises	...	...	...	46
Food (adulteration) samples	...	...	...	161
Food (bacteriological) samples	...	...	...	45
				Cont'd.....

<u>AIR</u>				
Volumetric Instruments	...	...		71
Industrial smoke control	...	...		99
Smoke control areas	...	...	...	617
<u>PUBLIC HEALTH ACT</u>				
Drainage	...	...	...	738
Refuse	...	...	...	202
Insect pests	...	...	...	63
Conveniences	...	...	...	22
Nuisances	...	...	...	794
Infectious disease	...	...	...	535
Schools	...	...	...	57
<u>OTHER ACTS</u>				
Pests Act	...	...	...	198
Animals Acts	...	...	...	12
Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	292
Rag Flock etc. Act	...	...	...	2
<u>MISCELLANEOUS</u>				
Interviews	...	...	...	238
Attendance at Court	...	...	...	15
Lectures	...	...	...	15
Unclassified visits	...	...	...	197
Water samples	...	...	...	25
				8,326



# HOUSING

## TABLE II

(a)	Number of new dwellings erected by the Council during 1969	35
(b)	Number of new dwellings erected by private enterprise during 1969	245
(c)	Total number of dwellings built by Council since 1945	5,189
(d)	Total number of dwellings built by private enterprise since 1945	3,349
(e)	Number of Council dwellings occupied on 31st December 1969 = 6,816 + 10 pre-fabricated bungalows	

## HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND OTHER UNFIT HOUSES

## TABLE III

	Houses Demolished	Displaced during year	
		Persons	Families
<u>HOUSES DEMOLISHED IN CLEARANCE AREAS</u>	Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>HOUSES DEMOLISHED NOT IN CLEARANCE AREAS</u>			
As a result of formal procedure under Section 17(1) of the Housing Act 1957	1	2	2
Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED</u>			
Under Section 17(1) of the Housing Act 1957	1	Nil	Nil
Parts of buildings closed under Section 18 of the Housing Act 1957	Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED</u>	By Owner	By Local Authority	
After informal action by Local Authority	19	Nil	
After formal Notice Under :			
(a) Public Health Acts	11	Nil	
(b) Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act 1957	1	4	

COMPULSORY IMPROVEMENT OF DWELLINGS

TABLE IV

		1965/68	1969
1. Area Improvement	Areas declared	4	Nil
	Containing - total dwellings	935	Nil
	Improvable dwellings (tenanted and owner/occupied)	538	Nil
	Tenanted improvable dwellings	260	Nil
	Preliminary notices served to proposing improvement to - full standard	253	Nil
	Undertakings given	11	Nil
	Improvement notices served - Immediate	121	2
	Suspended	113	Nil
	Final	16	10
	Appeals under Section 27	Nil	Nil
	Notices withdrawn - Immediate	10	Nil
	Suspended	Nil	Nil
	Final	1	Nil
	Improvement works completed - tenanted	49	68
	owner/occupied	95	12
2. Improvement of dwellings outside improvement areas	Preliminary Notices served : proposing improvement to full standard	21	10
	Undertakings given	1	Nil
	Improvement Notices served	11	10
	Appeals against Notices	Nil	Nil
	Improvement Notices withdrawn	1	Nil
	Improvement Works completed	3	4
3. Improvement of dwellings in tenement blocks	NIL	Nil	Nil
4. Enforcement	Work carried out by Council in default of compliance with an improvement notice or failure to fulfil undertaking	18	29
5. Purchase	Purchase Notices received - dwellings	3	2



## FOOD

### Types of Food Premises within the Borough at 1st January 1969

TABLE V

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Retail Food Shops	...	407
Hotels and Public Houses	...	56
Cafes and Restaurants	...	68
Industrial and Commercial Canteens	...	79
School Canteens	...	34
Club	...	14
Bakehouses	...	9
Wholesale Food Merchants	...	19
Food Factories	...	4
Public Market	...	1
Slaughterhouse	...	1

---

All these premises comply with Regulations 16 and 19  
of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, where  
applicable.

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#### Food Premises Registered by the Council

##### Under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act 1955

Ice Cream Manufacturers	...	2
Ice Cream Dealers	...	172
Preserved Food Manufacturers	...	41

#### Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1963/65

Licences for the sale of milk under the above Regulations were  
held as follows :-

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Designated Milk	Dealers Licences
Untreated Milk	14
Pasteurised Milk	63
Sterilised Milk	44
Ultra Heat Treated Milk	30

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All licence holders are registered as milk distributors. One  
distributor is registered solely for the sale of cream.

INCIDENCE OF DISEASE IN ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED IN WATFORD DURING 1969

TABLE VI

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	9,554	2,550	1,091	17,039	84,900
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	12	9	1	56
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	4,770	1,525	64	4,731	42,995
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	49.9	59.4	6.69	27.7	50.7
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3	-	-	-	205
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.3	-	-	-	0.24
<u>Cystercosis</u>					
Carcasses in which cystercosis was found	72	31	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	72	31	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-



TABLE VII

72 cases of cystercercus bovis were discovered in the 12,104 cattle slaughtered in Watford. This gives an incidence rate of 0.59%. The location of the cysts were as follows :-

	Head	Heart	Skirt
Viable cysts	9	2	3
Degenerate cysts	33	56	6

The cysts in 14 cases (19.4%) were viable indicating that the infections were of recent origin.

ICE CREAM SAMPLES

TABLE VIII

Bacteriological Samples

Satisfactory	Grades 1 and 2	21
Unsatisfactory	Grades 3 and 4	18
55% of all samples were satisfactory. After an unsatisfactory sample, repeated samples are taken from the same source until a satisfactory result is obtained.		

Chemical Samples

7 samples complied with the statutory standards.



FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955 - TABLE IX

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IN RESPECT OF THE PREPARATION OR SALE OF FOOD

No.	Section	Alleged Offence	Result	Fines	Costs payable by Defendant	Remarks
1	2	Sale of unsound Cornish pasty	Conviction	£40	£. s. d. 6. 6. 0	
2	2	Sale of unsound corned beef loaf	Conviction	£25	-	
3	2	Sale of milk containing foreign matter	Conviction	£30	-	
4	2	Sale of mouldy yoghurt	Conviction	£35	6. 6. 0	
5	2	Sale of meal containing insect	Conviction	£20	-	
6	2	Sale of mouldy toast	Conviction	£15	10. 0. 0	
7	2	Sale of sour dairy dessert	Conviction	£20	10.10. 0	
8	2	Sale of fly-blown bacon	Conviction	£20	10.10. 0	
9	2	Sale of mouldy sausages	Conviction	£20	10.10. 0	
10	2	Sale of mouldy sausages	Dismissed	-	-	See 7(b) 'Unsound food'.
11	2	Sale of mouldy fruit cake	Conviction	£25	10.10. 0	
12	2	Sale of loaf containing nail	Conviction	£25	10.10. 0	
13	2	Sale of prawn in batter containing rodent droppings	Conviction	£25	30. 2. 0	
14	2	Sale of biscuits containing insects	Conviction	£25	10.10. 0	
15	2	Sale of mouldy processed cheese	Conviction	£30	10.10. 0	
16	13	Restaurant - 4 offences against Food Hygiene (General) Regulations	Conviction	£31	12.12. 0	
17	13	Restaurant - 9 offences against Food Hygiene (General) Regulations	Conviction	£90	15.15. 0	
18	13	Slaughterhouse employee used tobacco	Conviction	£10	-	

# FOOD POISONING

TABLE X

	No.	Number of Cases		Organism Responsible	Food suspected
		Notified	Otherwise Ascertained		
Family outbreaks	1	4	Nil	Salmonella Saint - Paul	Unknown
	1	2	Nil	Salmonella Typhi - Murium	Unknown
	2	6	Nil	Unknown	Unknown
Other Outbreaks	1	2	Nil	Salmonella Typhi - Murium	Unknown
Single Cases	6	6	Nil	Salmonella Typhi - Murium	Unknown
	1	1	Nil	Salmonella Stanleyville	Unknown
	1	1	Nil	Salmonella Infantis	Unknown
	1	1	Nil	Salmonella Enteritidis	Unknown
	1	1	Nil	Salmonella Senftenberg	Unknown
	1	1	Nil	Salmonella Newport	Unknown
	1	1	Nil	Salmonella Virchow	Unknown
	1	1	Nil	Salmonella Brandenburg	Unknown
	1	1	Nil	Salmonella - Not typed	Unknown
	9	9	Nil	Unknown	Unknown



TABLE XI

Infringements of Act in 277 premises inspected during 1969

Uncleanly condition of premises	15
Inadequate provision for maintaining reasonable temperature	5
Inadequate light or ventilation	9
Unsatisfactory sanitary conveniences or washing facilities	21
Inadequate hot water, clean towels etc. for hand washing	9
Inadequate supply of drinking water	2
Inadequate provision for accommodating clothing	2
Defective condition of floors or stairs	21
Inadequate fencing of dangerous parts of machinery	6
Suitable or sufficient sitting facilities not provided	1
Inadequate first aid equipment	19
Failure to display prescribed abstract of the Act	15
Overcrowding	1
No thermometer	10
Inadequate facilities for eating meals	1
Other matters	2
	<hr/>
	139
	<hr/> <hr/>

TABLE XII

Analysis of Causes of Accidents notified during 1969

Machinery	1
Falls of persons	11
Stepping on or striking against objects or person	5
Handling of goods	2
Struck by falling object	4
Use of hand tools	2
Not otherwise specified	8
	<hr/>
	33
	<hr/> <hr/>



FACTORIES ACTS 1937 TO 1961

TABLE XIII(i)

	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authorities	27	3	Nil	Nil
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	475	162	1	Nil
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	14	10	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	516	175	1	Nil

OUTWORK (SECTIONS 133 AND 134)

TABLE XIII(ii)

Nature of Work	No. of outworkers in August list notified to Local Authority
Wearing apparel (Making, alterations etc.)	2
Making of paper receptacles	1
Carding of buttons, belts, etc.	18
Casques, Christmas stockings, etc.	25
TOTAL	46
There were no cases of default in sending lists of outworkers as required by Section 133(i)(c).	

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

TABLE XIV

1.	Number of properties in district	30,892
2.	(a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	467
	(b) Number infested by :-	
	(i) Rats	419
	(ii) Mice	33
3.	(a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	Nil
	(b) Number infested by :-	
	(i) Rats	Nil
	(ii) Mice	Nil











[illegible]